









The German Government has sanctioned the construction of a canal connecting Berlin with the Baltic.

It is asserted to-day that Turkey has prohibited the use of the Greek language in Cretan tribunals.

BERLIN, January 23rd.

The Reichstag has approved the permanency of the Socialist Law, but has rejected the clause empowering expulsion.

PARIS, January 24th.

In the Chamber of Deputies yesterday, M. Spuller, Minister of Foreign Affairs, refused to discuss the treaty between Italy and King Menelik, and said he was still awaiting the text of the treaty.

LONDON, January 24th.

At the Bow Street Police Court yesterday, Mr. Newton and others were committed to take their trial at the next Session of the Central Criminal Court. The charge arises out of the Cleveland Street scandals. The defendants were admitted to bail.

Mr. Forwood, Secretary to the Admiralty, speaking at Blackpool yesterday, said that by the year 1891 one hundred and sixty one ships, including those lately completed, would be added to our Navy, and moreover that ten older ironclads were being modernized. He positively denied that there was any truth in the adverse reports circulated concerning the guns of the *Zeus* and *Victoria*.

Benzon, the "Jubilee Plunger," was not arrested as at first stated, but a creditor at Lyons, on whom a cheque was drawn, threatened proceedings, upon which Benzon's family intervened, and arranged to pay the cheque.

The first train crossed the Forth Bridge to-day.

Several vessels of the Atlantic Line suffered terribly in the gales, and report having seen an immense icefield while crossing the Atlantic.

A meeting has been called at Lisbon to consider the national defence of Portugal. It has appointed a Committee of 120 citizens and officers to watch their interests in regard to Nyassaland.

The Emperor William presided to-day at a Conference of Ministers held for the discussion of measures dealing with Socialism in Germany.

January 25th.

Sir James Fergusson, speaking last night, declared Portugal's claim to arbitration in the matter of Nyassaland was baseless and absurd.

The Greek reserves have been ordered to hold themselves in readiness for service. It is believed the order is in some way connected with Crete.

Lord Torphichen has secured a divorce from his wife, on the ground of adultery with Lieutenant Lynch Hloss.

The Marquis of Harrington contemplates visiting India directly if he is sufficiently recovered.

Repeto Property and Company at Buenos Ayres have failed with six million dollars of liabilities, owing to an immense business of jobbing in Argentine products, and large shipping interests in Europe.

Some French priests who have arrived at Mombasa state that they met Dr. Peters in the interior, when he was well and returning to the coast. No mention is made of the date when they met him.

The endeavours made by Benzon's friends to bring about a settlement of his case have failed, and he has been examined by the magistrate and admitted having forged a cheque for £1,000 having come to the end of his resources, which he hoped to probably recoup by gambling. He was summoned to appear at the police court on Friday.

Mr. Justice Manly was attacked with a slight stroke of paralysis yesterday while on the bench. Five other judges are at present disabled through various illnesses.

LISBON, January 25th.

The semi-official organ, the *Diã*, states, that Major Pinto has been ordered not to return to Lisbon, but to go to Western Africa on Government mission.

BERLIN, January 25th.

In consequence of the rejection of the clause in the Socialist Bill, empowering the expulsion of Socialists, the Government will abandon the Bill for the present. Emperor William will close the Reichstag this evening.

Later.

The Reichstag has rejected the Socialist Bill by a majority of seventy one votes.

Midnight.

The Government decided to press for a division on the Socialist Bill with the result already stated in a previous telegram. Emperor William, in his speech from the Throne at the closing of the Reichstag, promised the introduction of further laws for the benefit of working classes, whom, he trusted, would learn to look to Parliament, not for violent measures but for the improvement of their condition.

LONDON, January 26th.

Mr. Bradlaugh has arrived at home. In an interview with a reporter of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, he said he had benefited immensely by his trip to India, but still suffered from petty ailments. He spoke most warmly of his reception in Bombay, and said that the varied and representative character of the Congress had more than ever convinced him of the ignorance of Englishmen about India and its affairs.

WASHINGTON, January 26th.

The text of the Extradition Treaty between Great Britain and America which is still before the Senate has been published, and expressly excludes Extradition for political offences.

CAIRO, January 26th.

The Egyptian Surplus for the last year amounts to £1,600,000. The reserve fund has been increased by £4,200,000.

DELAWARE, January 26th.

The Serbian Government demands of the Skupchina an extra credit of two million florins for guns and ammunition.

ST. PETERSBURG, January 27th.

The Railway from Samarcand to Tashkent will be commenced in May and will cross the Syr-daria at Khojend.

CONSTANTINOPLE, January 27th.

Chakir Pacha has forwarded to the Sultan two addresses, signed by prominent inhabitants of Crete, in which His Majesty is thanked for the firm lately promulgated in the island and which has restored quiet.

BOMBAY, January 27th.

Nawab Noon-ul-Mulk, last surviving son of the first Sir Salur Jung, died yesterday at Hyderabad.

BRUSSELS, January 27th.

The sitting of the Anti-Slavery Conference were resumed to-day.

LONDON, January 28th.

The *Independent* Belgae states that the British delegates at the Anti-Slavery Conference will submit fresh proposals in reference to the importation of arms into Africa, and that if France accepts them Great Britain will abandon her claim to the right of search.

Mr. Justice Manly is improving.

The troopship *Malabar* has arrived at Portsmouth. She has a large hole in her side on the water line, and was struck three times by the French steamer she collided with.

In an article in *Harper's Magazine* Lord Wolsey condemns the present uniforms of our army, and likens our generals in uniform to dressed monkeys. He urges the adoption of the campaign dress as a regular uniform, and recom-

mends a minimum addition of sixpence per day to private's pay.

At a meeting held at the Mansions House, the Lord Mayor presiding, at which there was a large attendance of eminent naval and military officers, a Committee was formed to invite funds for a memorial to the late Lord Napier of Magdala.

ROME, January 28th.

The Italian General has assured the notables at Adowah that the occupation of the town by Italian troops has only been undertaken as a temporary measure for the benefit of the people.

LONDON, January 29th.

Sir William Gull, the eminent physician, has had a stroke of paralysis.

Later.

Sir William Gull is dead.

Doctor Tanner who was sentenced three months' imprisonment for slander, has been released on bail pending an appeal from his conviction. The slander of which he was found guilty was that he called Mr. Smith-Barry a hound and cowardly bastard at a meeting of the Cork Board of Guardians.

THE CRICKET DINNER.

In the absence of invitations to the local representatives of the Press to any of the social functions organised for the benefit of the visitors from the Straits Settlements we have to acknowledge our indebtedness to our colleagues fifteen hundred miles away for a report of what took place within a quarter of a mile of this office—the Cricket Dinner. The *Singapore Free Press* says—

Covers were laid for 180 and 148 actually attended the dinner. The room was beautifully decorated and brilliantly lighted. Flags and festoons of our colours and a telegraph board showing 22/100, the date of our first match, were conspicuous, while trophies of bats and balls, oars, and billiard cues were cleverly arranged about the room. At each end of the hall was one large table and at convenient distances from them were 3 similarly placed tables connected by small tables.

After the usual loyal toast the President (Capt. Deane) proposed the health of the Governor in a short and happy speech, to which

His Excellency replied by stating that he had attended the dinner, contrary to the orders of his doctor, to add his quota to the welcome accorded to the Singapore visitors, whom he could now call his Singapore friends. It was only a body of cricketers who would have travelled in this part of the world 3,000 miles to play a friendly match, and though he wished they could have had better weather and better luck it must be remembered that this was a case of cocks fighting on their own—them 1—and that to their familiarity with their ground the home team to some extent owed their victory; that when the match came to be fought out again the Singapore men fighting on their own—them 2—which showed their superiority in that game which was to all Englishmen. He hoped that his Singapore friends had had a good time. It was his earnest desire that they should be so and he earnestly desired that they would renew it even at the cost of another defeat. He thanked them for bringing with them their better halves who had added so much to the agreeableness of the visit and in the event of their coming again he promised them a cordial welcome in which he hoped to take a more prominent part than his health had permitted him to take on this occasion. (Loud cheering.)

General Bryan-Edwards, in reply to the toast with which his name and that of Mr. Travers had been received and he thanked the present and his friend on his left from the bottom of his heart.

"THE RISE AND PROGRESS OF HONGKONG" CRITICISED.

The *London and China Express* waxes humorous over Sir G. W. de Vaux's now-famous despatch on "The Rise and Progress of Hongkong." Amongst other things the critic says—

Sir William de Vaux, the Governor of Her Majesty's Colony of Hongkong, is to be congratulated. He eclipses Rider Haggard, and should certainly give up governing and take to descriptive writing. In old days it used to be said that Sir Rutherford Alcock was the best special correspondent of the newspapers. His fluent pen filled many a column of the local Press, and a despatch from Peking usually afforded a theme for at least a dozen leading articles. Sir Rutherford, however, generally wrote upon political subjects; and, if a little lengthy, was at least clear in his arguments, practical in his suggestions. But Sir William de Vaux is positively sublime. It is painful to think that a description so brilliant as that which he has given of Hongkong should be destined to blush for the most part unseen within the cold covers of a Blue-book. But, as we all know, the destiny of many a work of misplaced genius has been of this kind. Poets whose names will never be known to posterity have sung of Pearl-fish; essayists who would have thrown Macaulay into the shade have written of Holloway's ointment—and, alas! that it should be so. Governors who might have rivalled Scott himself in powers of description have been destined, if not to blush unseen, at all events to waste their sweetness on the desert air of unympathising and prosaic Colonial Office officials. . . . There is a business-like accuracy in giving the details, as creditable to the Administrator as the foliage interspersed over the mountains is to the descriptive litterateur. But could not Sir William "do" the things separately? Paragraphs 73 to 78 of his despatch would be worth at least a Guinea to any of the lighter magazines, and how many a business' word of public time must have been lost in perusing this charming little composition at the Colonial Office! Conceive the dismay of the clerk who had to explain to Lord Knutsford, between the hours of twelve and three, what the last six paragraphs of the despatch contained. But this is beyond the power of ordinary imagination, and we can only hope that in future the versatile Governor of Hongkong will see the desirability, for the sake of his readers if not of himself, of adhering to the less ornate but on the whole more useful and certainly more succinct style, customary in official documents.

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